

Appln. No. 10/787,076

Amdt. dated December 30, 2005

Reply to Office action of October 3, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-10 are pending in the present application, claims 4 and 5 having been cancelled and claims 7-10 having been added herein. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (U. S. Patent No. 6,895,099). Claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,895,099) in view of Azima (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,487). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The Examiner asserts that Lee teaches a case for containing an electrical instrument, comprising a frame 20, a cover 10, and a protrusion 12. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 to include the following feature therein, which feature is not found in the disclosure of Lee, particularly in combination with the remaining features of the claims:

The protrusion has a smoothly inclined surface to guide the protrusion into the holes so that the protrusion is inserted in the hole smoothly.

Consequently, if the protrusion is provided on the frame and the hole is provided in the cover member, an opening edge of the cover member slides reasonably past the protrusion of the

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frame so that the protrusion of the frame is smoothly inserted into the hole of the cover member.

In contrast, Lee discloses that the end of the upwardly curved tension rim 12 of the protector 10 is engaged in the serration grooves 18 formed in the inner surface of the peripheral wall portion of the frame 20. Lee fails to teach and suggest the feature that the protrusion has the smoothly inclined surface to guide easily the protrusion into the hole, as recited in the amended claims 1 and 6.

For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits the amended claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Lee concerning the structure for attaching the frame and the cover member.

In addition, the Applicant has added new independent claims 7 and 10. The new independent claims 7 and 10 are supported by the original specification.

Each of the new independent claims 7 and 10 recites the additional lock part to accomplish a secure attachment of the frame and the cover member. More specifically, the lock part has the structure in which the frame has at least one concave portion in the peripheral wall portion; after the protrusion provided on one of the frame and the cover member is inserted in the hole provided in the other of the frame and the cover member, at least one deformed portion of the

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peripheral wall portion of the cover member is inserted in the concave portion so that the frame and the cover member are securely locked. It is possible to adjust the number of deformed portion, depending on a number of conditions.

On the contrary, Lee discloses that the tension rim 12 is engaged with the serration grooves and the locking protrusions 21 lock a portion of the tension rim 12. However, the locking protrusions 21 are previously provided on the peripheral wall of the frame 20 as shown in FIGs. 3 and 4, and are not formed by deforming the peripheral wall of the cover member as in the present invention.

In this way, the amended claims 7 and 10 significantly differ from the disclosure of Lee in the structure of the lock part.

For the reasons mentioned above, the amended claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 and claims dependent thereon are patentable over the disclosure of Lee.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

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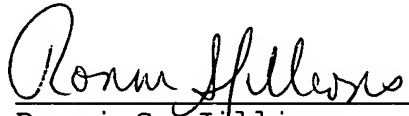
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If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to
contact the undersigned at (202) 628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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